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HR 71
REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT A COMMISSION TO DEVELOP AN
ACTION PLAN TO SAVE ENDANGERED PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES

Statement for
House Committee on
Planning, Energy, and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing - March 10, 1988

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HR 71 requests the governor to appoint a commission to develop an action plan for the conservation of endangered plant and animal species and requests the commission to report its findings to the 1989 legislature.

Our statement on this resolution does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Natural habitat for Hawaii's endangered plants and wildlife is continually being destroyed by urban sprawl, exotic species, and by natural disasters. It is essential to save these natural habitats in order to perpetuate the existence and heritage of the many unique plant and wildlife species in Hawaii.

The need for an action plan to save Hawaii's endangered plants and wildlife is eminent. There are 761 candidates for the Endangered Species List which are found on the U.S. Mainland, including Alaska, representing 3.8% of the estimated total number of species. By contrast, Hawaii hosts 639 candidates, representing 29% of our native flora and fauna. Within the past 200 years, 100 species, or 0.5% of the total on the Mainland have become extinct. During the same period, 295 species from Hawaii, constituting 11.6% of our total, have been lost.

We urge that an additional resolve be added to direct the governor to include members with experience in wildlife management, biology, zoology, entomology, botany or other natural science background in his appointments to the commission.